

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed April 22, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-11 remain pending in this application, of which the independent claims are 1 and 6. Claim 1 has been amended. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,542,935 to Ishii in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0043608 to Potter et al. ("Potter").

Claim 6 recites, "requesting said remote access server by said gatekeeper to connect with said second terminal, the request including an acknowledgment of the availability of resources for communication between said remote access server and said second terminal over a circuit network."

As item 3 of the Office Action acknowledges, Ishii fails to disclose or suggest this limitation of claim 6. In fact, the next-to-last paragraph of page 4 for item 3 of the Office Action, tacitly acknowledges, by omission, the lack of disclosure or suggestion that communication between the remote access server and the second terminal occurs over a circuit network.

Potter describes communication between the gatekeeper and the gateway according to H.323 in connecting a call to an H.323 terminal 44, 46, 48, 50 [0062, 0063]. The LAN terminals 44, 46, 48, 50 are connected in a packet-based network, not in a circuit network. The H.323 standard is designed for operation on packet-based networks.

Moreover, despite the suggestion at the top of page 3 of item 3 of the Office Action, the Ishii Call Agent 302 and Endpoint A on the LAN are likewise connected in a

packet-based (col. 4, line 48: “packet-based”) network, rather than in a circuit network.

In the disclosed H.323 (col. 3, line 61: “H.323”) Ishii system, a point-to-point (col. 4, line 3: “point-to-point connections”) Ethernet (col. 6, line 64: “Ethernet”) connection is established between the source and destination terminals on the LAN. The Ethernet frame has respective fields for the source and destination addresses of the corresponding terminals. In other words, a point-to-point connection is made between the source terminal and the destination terminal. Each terminal compares the destination address to its own address in deciding whether to retain the packet. This behavior is not characteristic of a circuit. Accordingly, this connection is established over a packet-based network, rather than over a circuit network. The same holds true for the Ishii Address Server 214 and the Endpoint A, which are connected on a packet-based network, rather than a circuit network.

The terminal 12 (FIG. 4) of the present invention, by contrast, is connected on a circuit network, and requires that connection be established over the circuit network to enable communication with the remote access server (specification, page 12, lines 22-23; page 13, lines 5-15).

As set forth above, Potter fails to disclose or suggest modification of Ishii to feature, “requesting said remote access server by said gatekeeper to connect with said second terminal, the request including an acknowledgment of the availability of resources for communication between said remote access server and said second terminal over a circuit network.” For at least this reason, the applied references fail to render obvious the invention as recited in claim 6. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 as amended recites:

- (c) causing said gatekeeper to request said remote access server to connect with said second terminal even when said second terminal is not registered in said gate keeper;
- (d) when the remote access server point-to-point connects, and assigns an IP address, to said second terminal by calling said second terminal over a circuit network, causing said second terminal to register the alias and the IP address of said second terminal in said gatekeeper

The amendment of claim 1 finds support in the specification (e.g., page 10, lines 24-28; page 12, lines 22-23; page 13, lines 5-15).

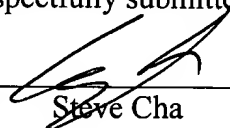
As set forth above in the previous section, the applied references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, suggest or feature “the remote access server . . . calling said second terminal over a circuit network” which language explicitly appears in claim 1 of the present invention. For at least this reason, the applied references fail render obvious the invention as recited in claim 1.

Regarding the other rejected claims, each depends from a base claim and is deemed to be patentable over the proposed Ishii/Potter combination at least due to its dependency.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in the event of any perceived outstanding issues so that passage of the case to issue can be effected without the need for a further Office Action.

If there are any fees due and owing, please charge Deposit Account No. 502-470.

Respectfully submitted,


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